

USDA Issues Complaint against Wayne H. Crites of Moorefield, West Virginia

Washington, DC (April 20, 2000) - On April 10, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued an administrative complaint against Wayne H. Crites, of Moorefield, West Virginia, who is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a livestock dealer and market agency. The complaint alleges that Crites is financially insolvent in that his current liabilities exceed his current assets, and that he operated while insolvent.

The complaint further alleges that Crites issued checks for livestock that were returned unpaid due to insufficient funds. According to the complaint, Crites failed to pay the full purchase price for livestock purchases and failed to pay promptly for livestock purchases as required under the Packers and Stockyards Act. Crites was also charged with failing to keep and maintain accounts, records and memoranda, which fully disclosed all transactions in his business as a livestock dealer and market agency.

If the charges are proven, Crites could be placed under a cease and desist order, similar to a permanent injunction, and may be ordered to pay a civil penalty.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to ensure free and open competition, and to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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